

but absolute confidence in the power of the human spirit. Let us seize it for India, for America, for all those with whom we share this small planet, and for all the children that together we can give such bright tomorrows.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:10 a.m. at the Parliament Building. In his remarks, he referred to Vice President Krishan Kant, Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee, and Speaker G.M.C. Balayogi of India; and Gen. Pervez Musharraf, army chief of staff, who led a coup d'etat in Pakistan on October 12, 1999. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Exchange With Reporters at the Taj Mahal in Agra, India

March 22, 2000

Visit to the Gandhi Memorial

Q. Mr. President, what were your thoughts when you were at the Gandhi Memorial?

The President. I was thinking about Gandhi's life. I was thinking about his going to South Africa, how he decided to come back here, how he completely gave his life over to what he believed, and how if all of us just had one fraction of that commitment, we could make peace in the world. That's what I was thinking.

Visit to Agra

Q. Mr. President, are you sort of sad that Agra is sort of a ghost town? Would you have liked to pump hands?

The President. Absolutely. I did see some people—

Q. Yes, but back there. They were peering—

The President. I know. I would have liked it if they were up front. I'd like that. I wanted to see them.

NOTE: The exchange began at approximately 5 p.m. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Remarks at the Signing Ceremony for the Indo-United States Joint Statement on Energy and the Environment in Agra

March 22, 2000

Thank you very much, Foreign Minister Singh, Chief Minister Gupta, Mayor Maurya, District Commissioner Chowdhury, and, especially, Professor Mishra. We admire you so much for your efforts to save the Ganges. We admire you because for you it is a matter of science and faith.

I want to thank all of you for welcoming me and my daughter and my wife's mother, many Members of the United States Congress, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Commerce, distinguished members of our administration, and our Ambassador here today. I want to thank all the environmental leaders from India who have come here today.

One month from this day we will celebrate across the world the 30th anniversary of Earth Day, a day set aside each year to honor our natural environment and to reaffirm our responsibility to protect it. In a unique way, in India the Earth has been celebrated for more than 30 centuries. This, after all, is a nation named for a river, a place where the Earth and its waters are worshipped as divine.

With good reason, the people of India have spent centuries worrying far less about what we might do to nature and far more about what nature can do to us through floods, hurricanes, droughts, and other calamities. But as the experience of the beautiful Taj Mahal proves and as the struggle to save the Ganges proves, we can no longer ignore man's impact on the environment.

Pollution has managed to do what 350 years of wars, invasions, and natural disasters have failed to do. It has begun to mar the magnificent walls of the Taj Mahal. Since 1982, protection of the monument has been a major priority, and the fight has yielded significant advances. But still, a constant effort is required to save the Taj Mahal from human environmental degradation, what some scientists call marble cancer. I can't help wondering that if a stone can get cancer,